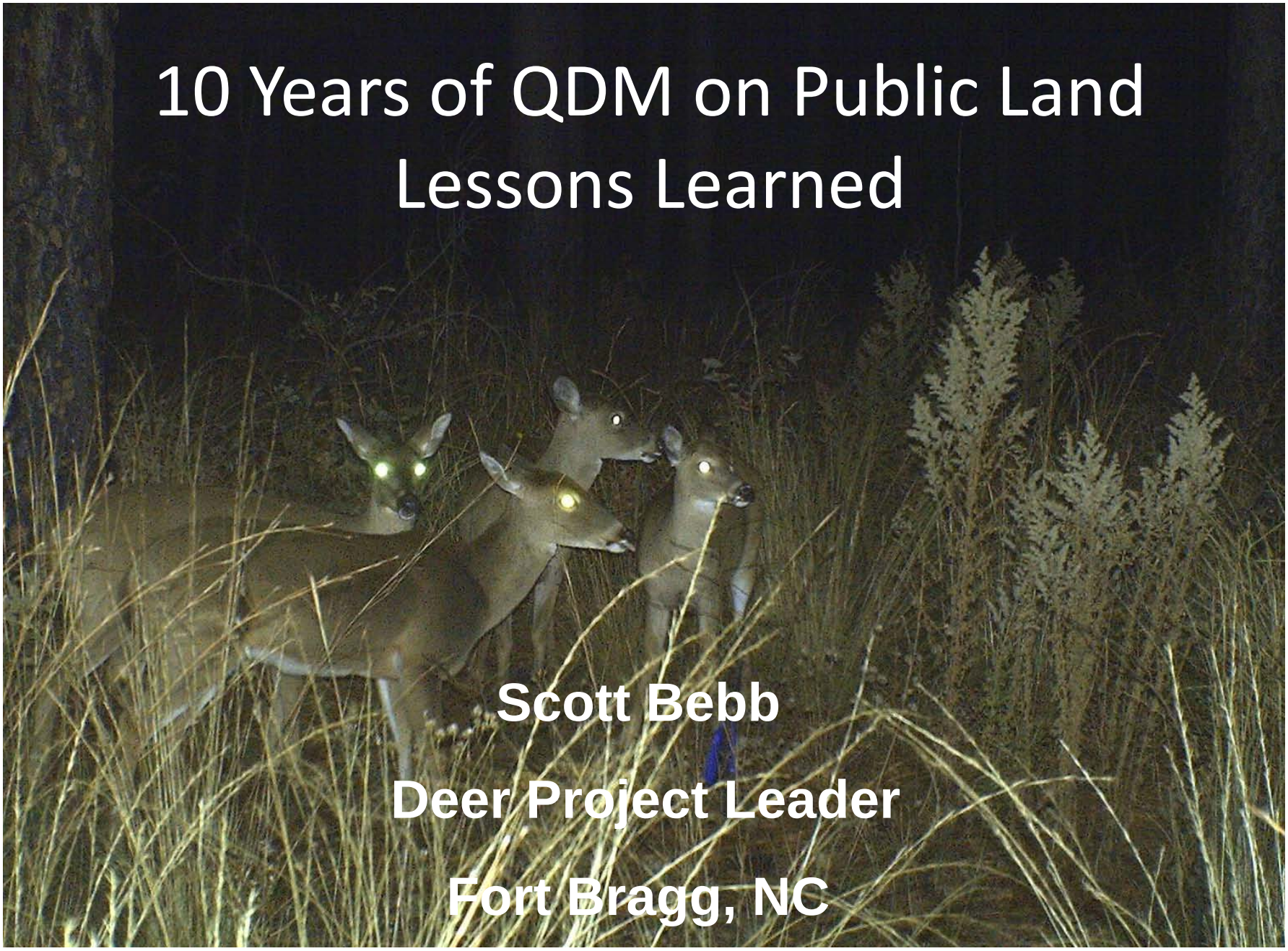
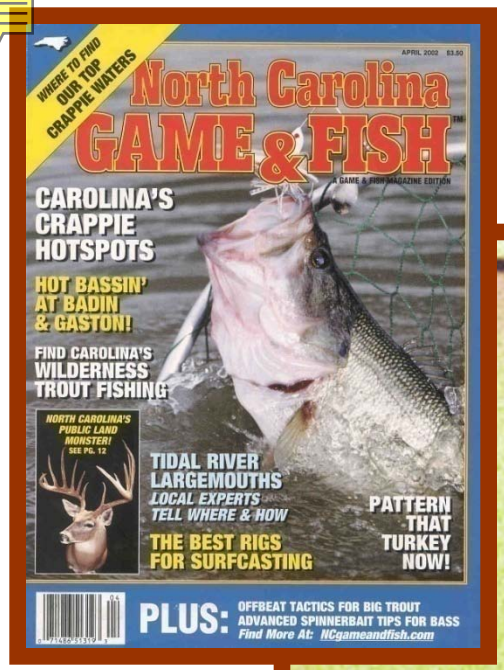
10 Years of QDM on Public Land
Lessons Learned



Scott Bebb

Deer Project Leader

Fort Bragg, NC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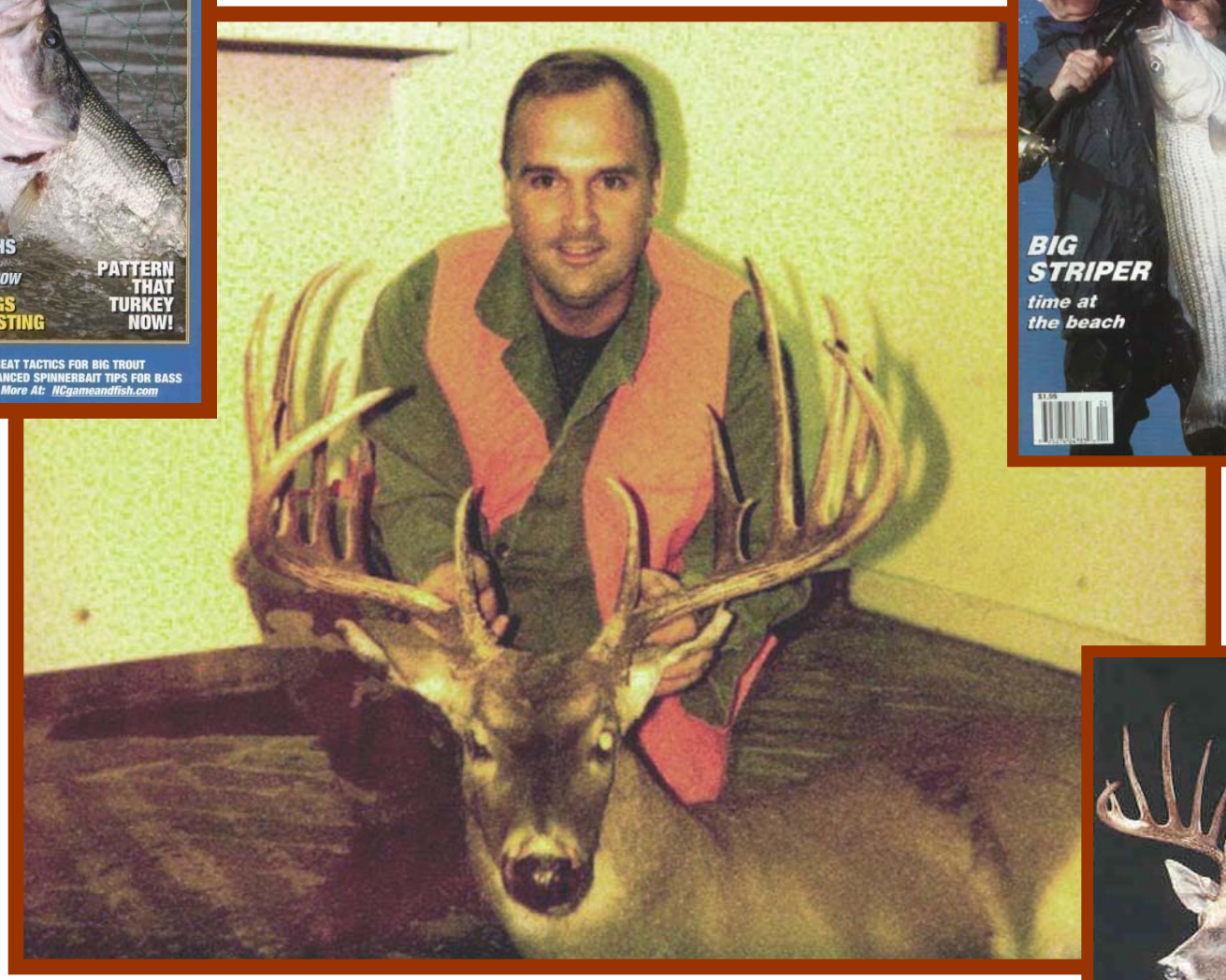
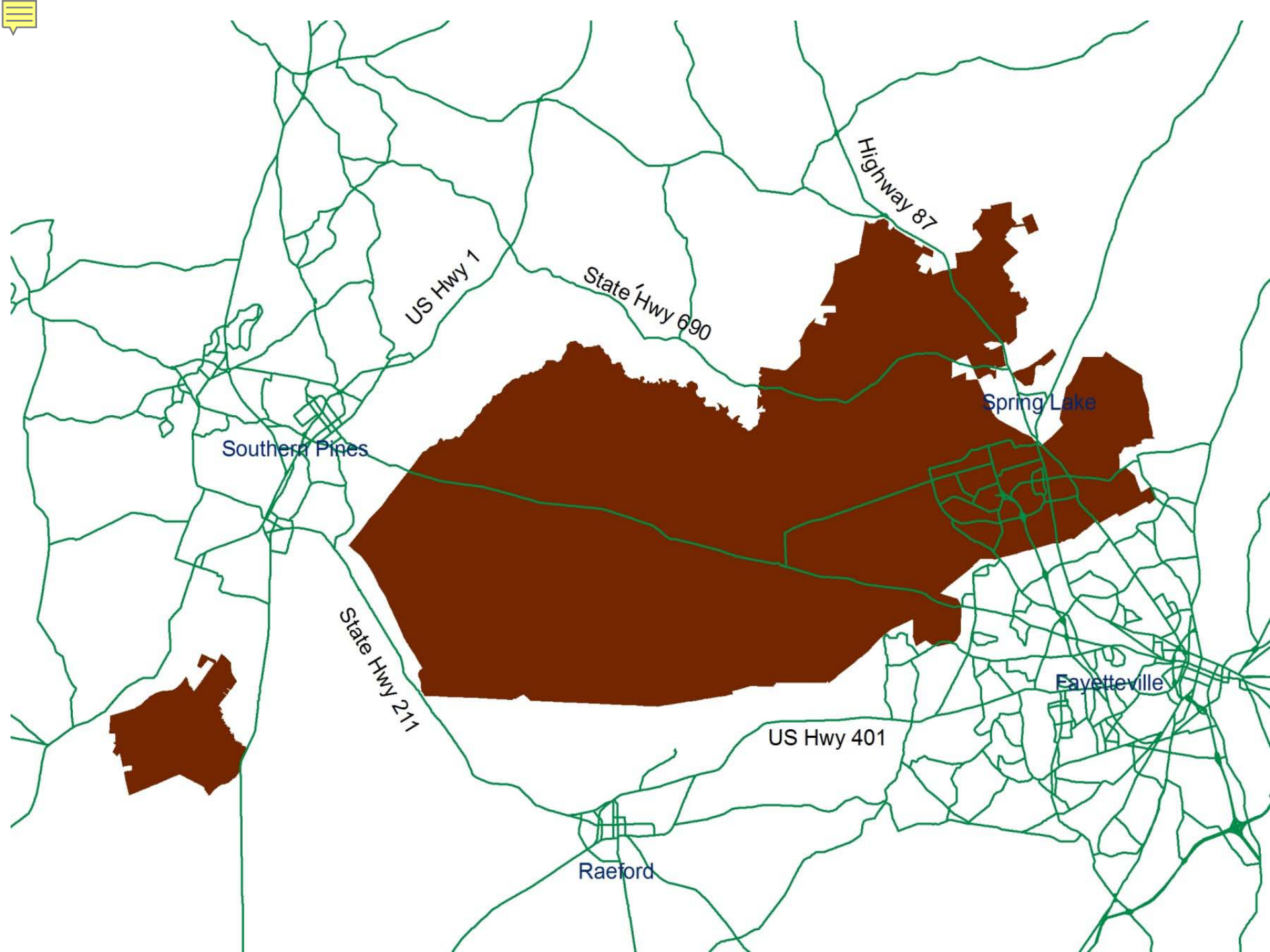


SPORTSMAN
North Carolina
Spanish fishin
good as it get
Lake Gaston's whopper walleye
Best patterns for trout on th Tuckasegee
Fort Bragg's monster buck
BIG STRIPER
time at the beach
Small spots f Piedmont waterfowl
Uwharrie squirrel map feature
Take a hike f upland grous

BRAGG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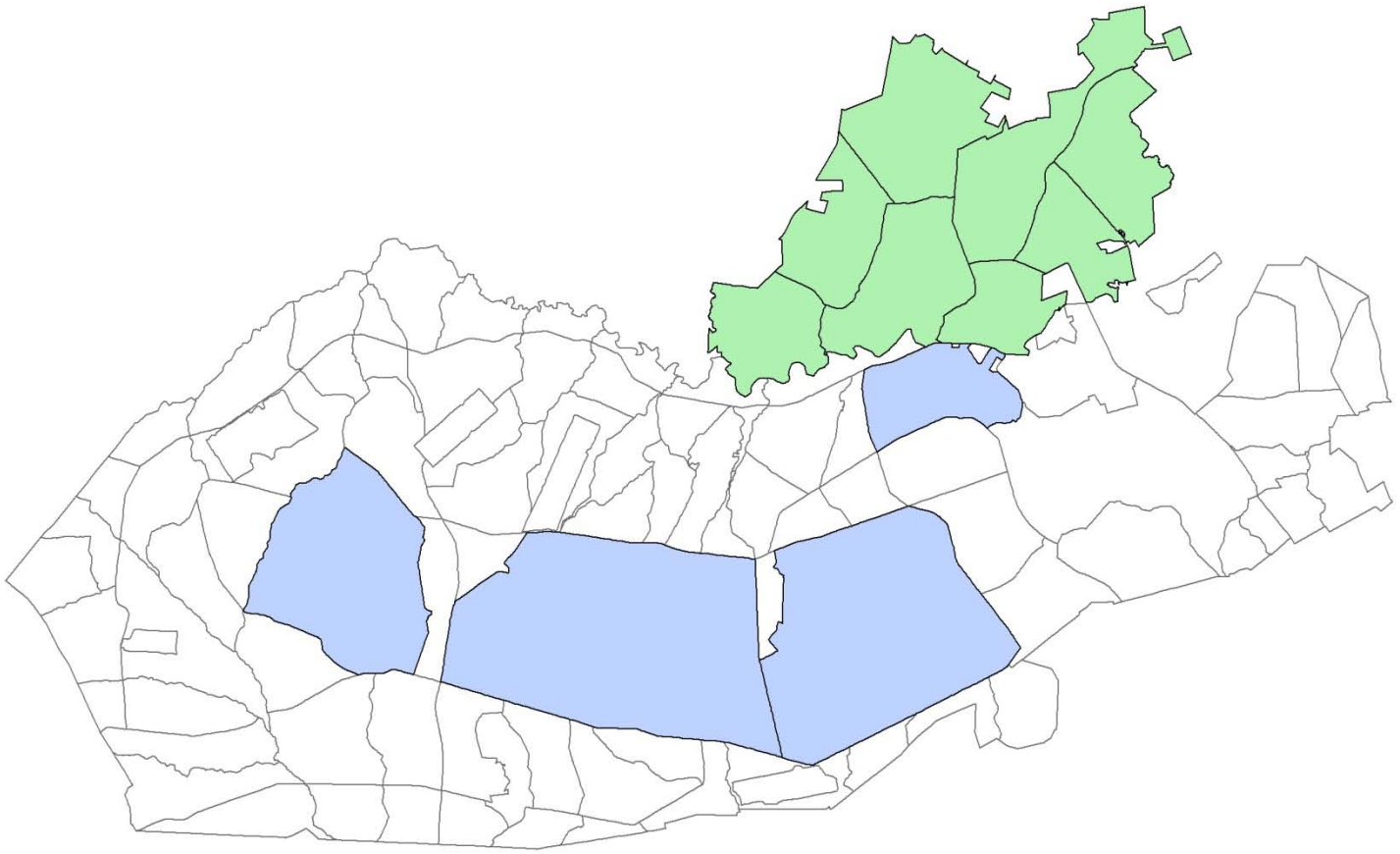
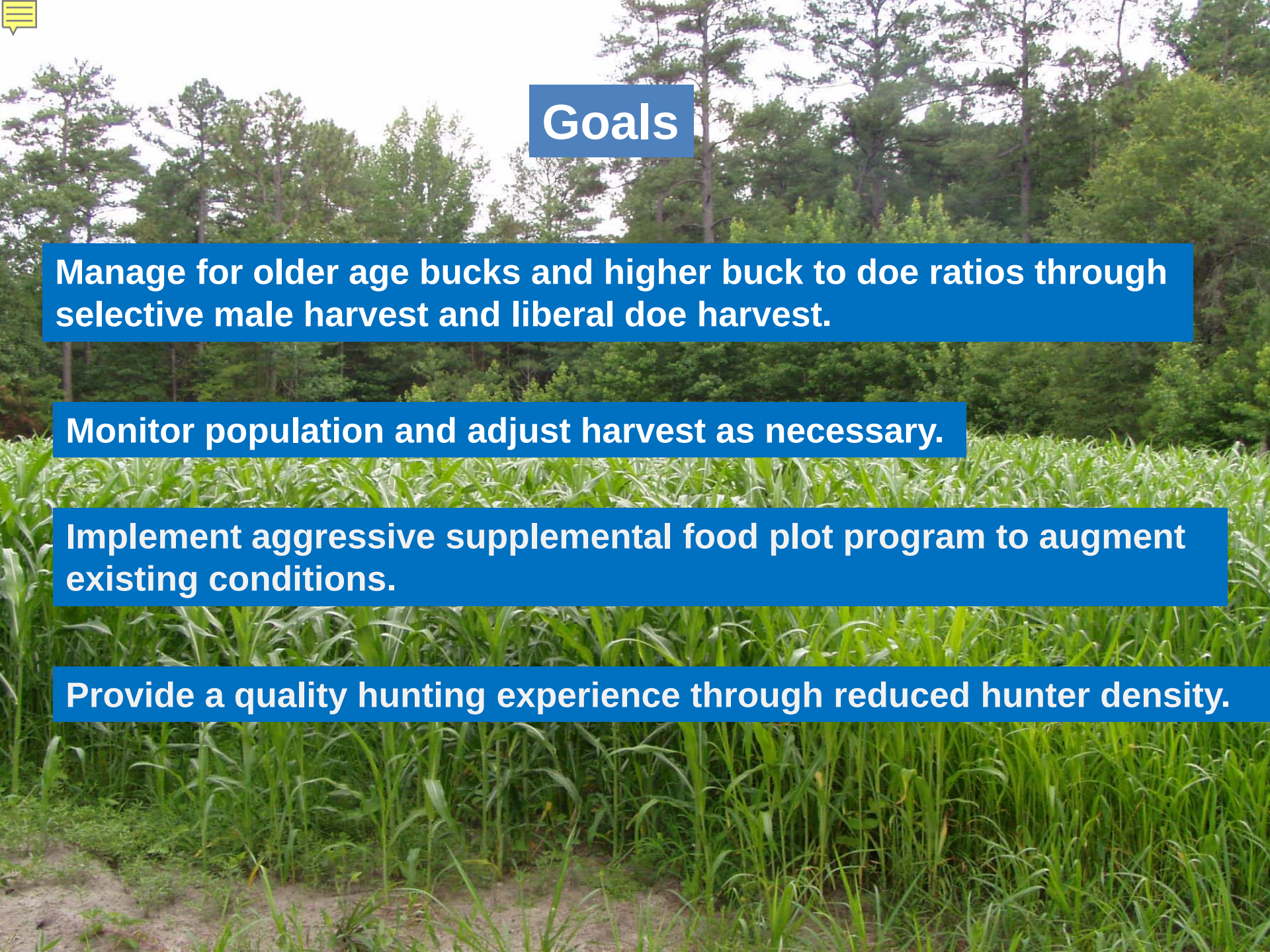
Spring Lake
Southern Pines
State Hwy 211
Fayetteville
US Hwy 401
Raeford





Goals

Manage for older age bucks and higher buck to doe ratios through selective male harvest and liberal doe harvest.

Monitor population and adjust harvest as necessary.

Implement aggressive supplemental food plot program to augment existing conditions.

Provide a quality hunting experience through reduced hunter density.

Antler Restrictions

At least 3 points (≥ 1”) on one side.

or

Inside Spread ≥ 12”

Cuddeback

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Playing the hand we're dealt

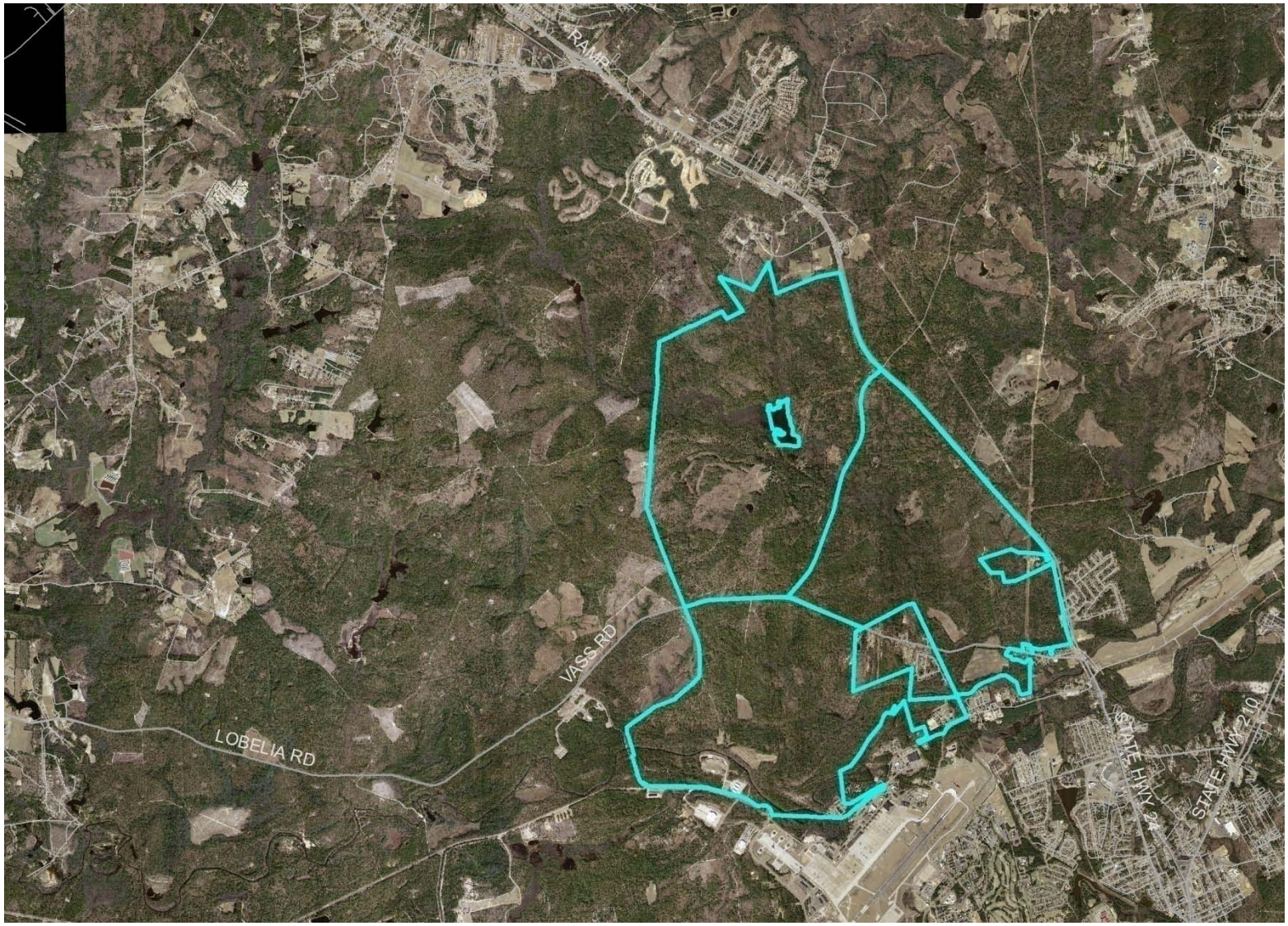
That one population on exceptionally poor habitat did not show a significant density-dependent response for recruitment may suggest that some habitats are too poor for such a process to be operative or detectable.

KEYSER, P.D., C.G. GUYNN,JR., AND H.S. Hill, JR. 2005 Density-dependent recruitment patterns in white-tailed deer. Wildlife Society Bulletin 33(1):222-232

... density independent factors such as rainfall and hard mast exert tremendous influence on these herds through their effect on nutrition. In the absence of either rain or mast, baseline levels of nutrition are simply too poor to allow for any alteration in either herd dynamics or condition. The habitat at BR is of such low quality that such a pattern would be expected (Shea and Osborne 1995)

KEYSER, P.D., C.G. GUYNN,JR., AND H.S. Hill, JR. 2005. Population density-physical condition relationships in white-tailed deer. Journal of Wildlife Management 69:356-365

1999 – 4,500 ac.

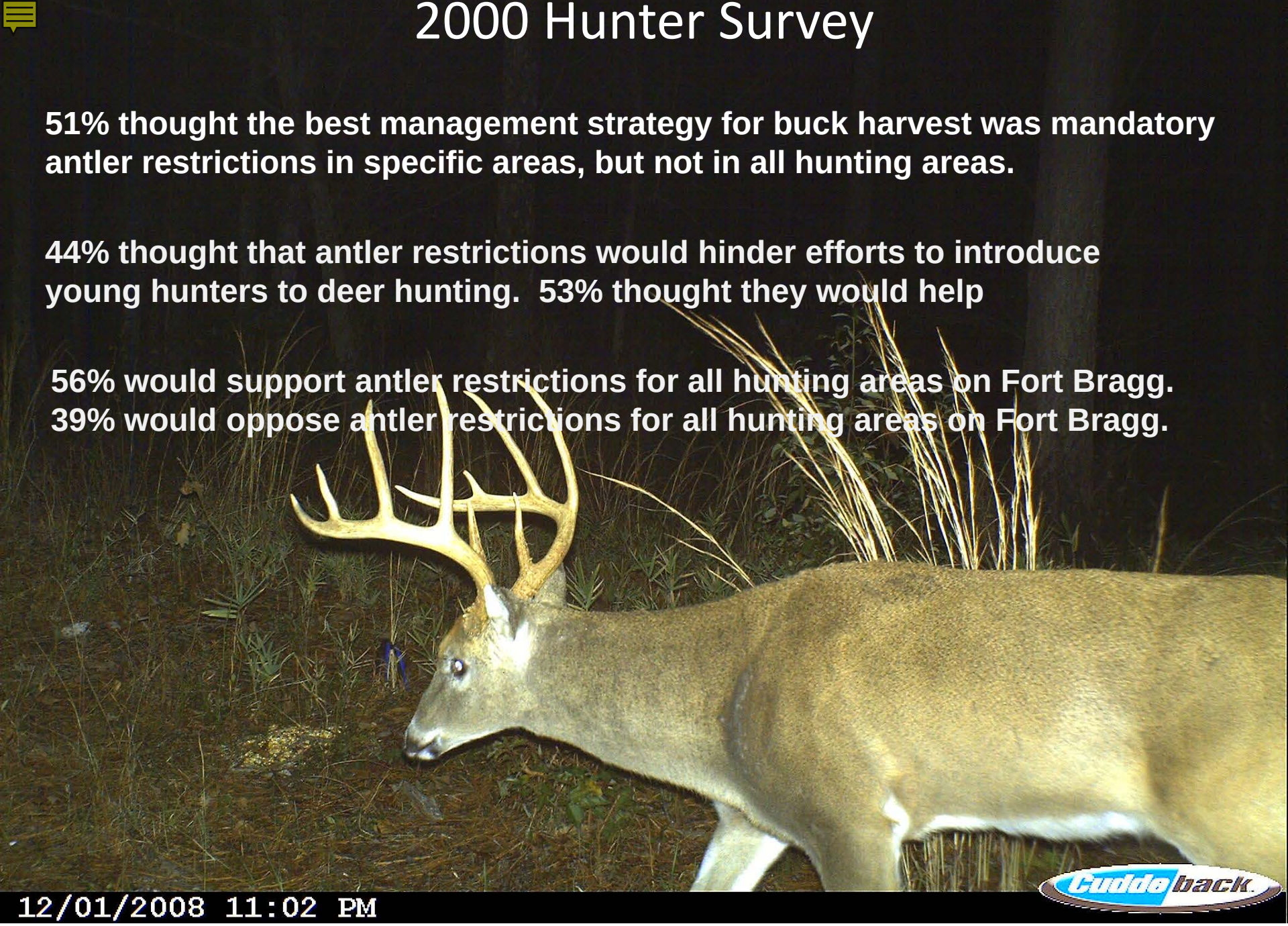


2000 Hunter Survey

51% thought the best management strategy for buck harvest was mandatory antler restrictions in specific areas, but not in all hunting areas.

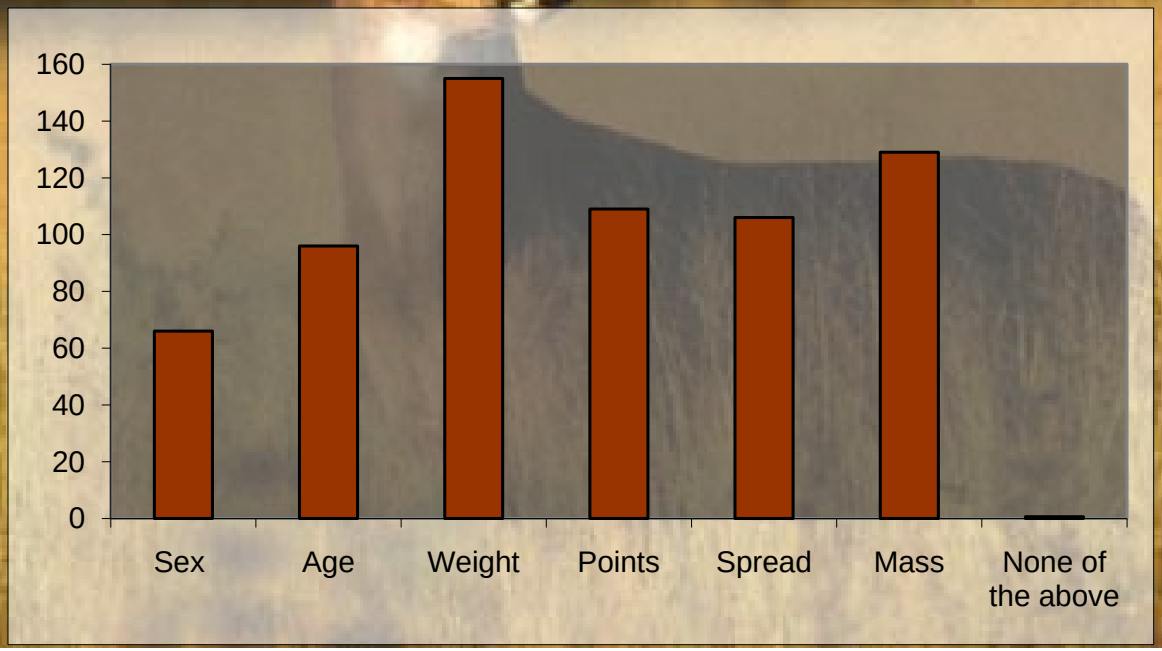
44% thought that antler restrictions would hinder efforts to introduce young hunters to deer hunting. 53% thought they would help

56% would support antler restrictions for all hunting areas on Fort Bragg.
39% would oppose antler restrictions for all hunting areas on Fort Bragg.

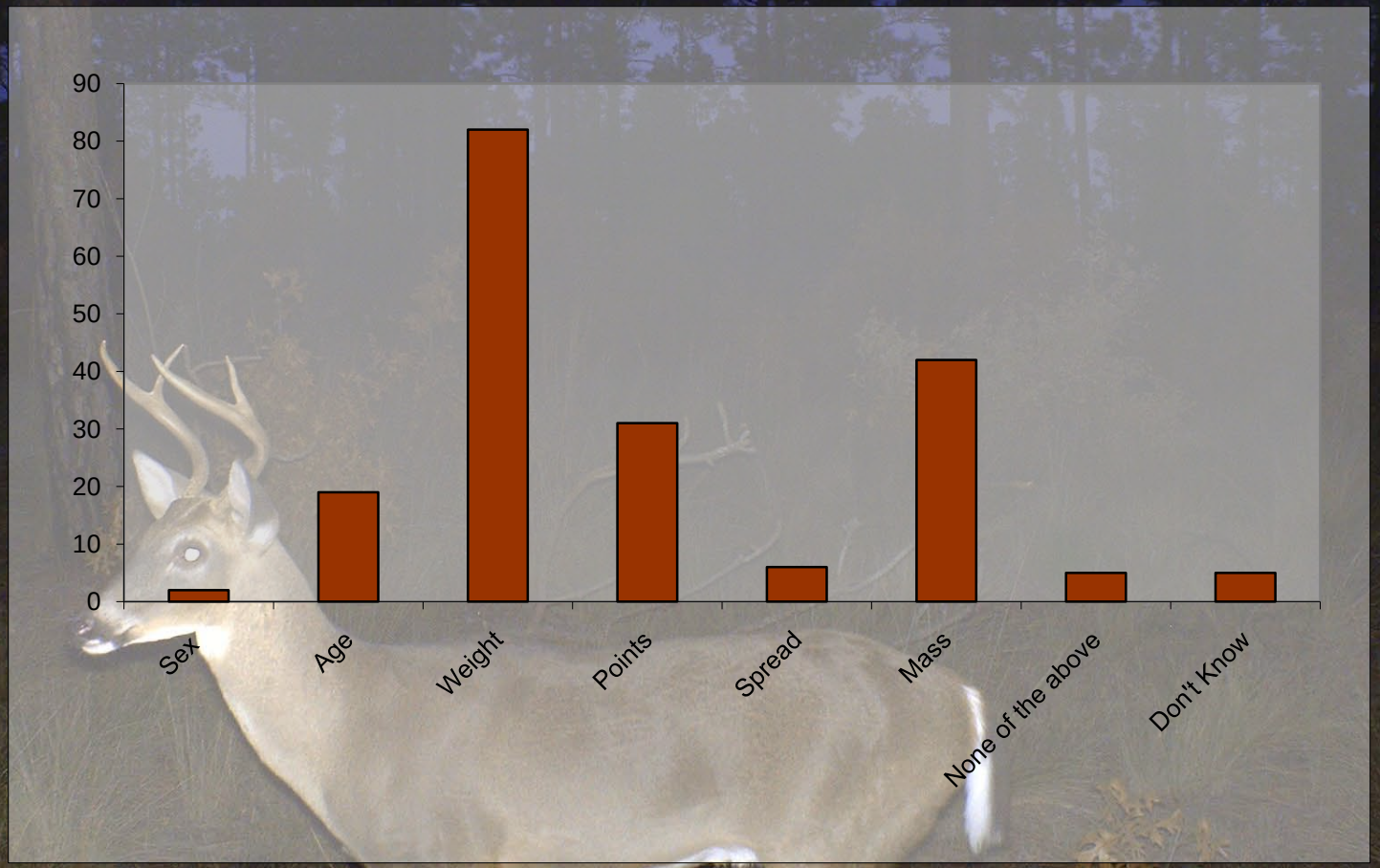


Quality Deer Management is a popular term used today. The word "quality" means different things to different people, Which of the following characteristics do you consider when defining "quality deer"?

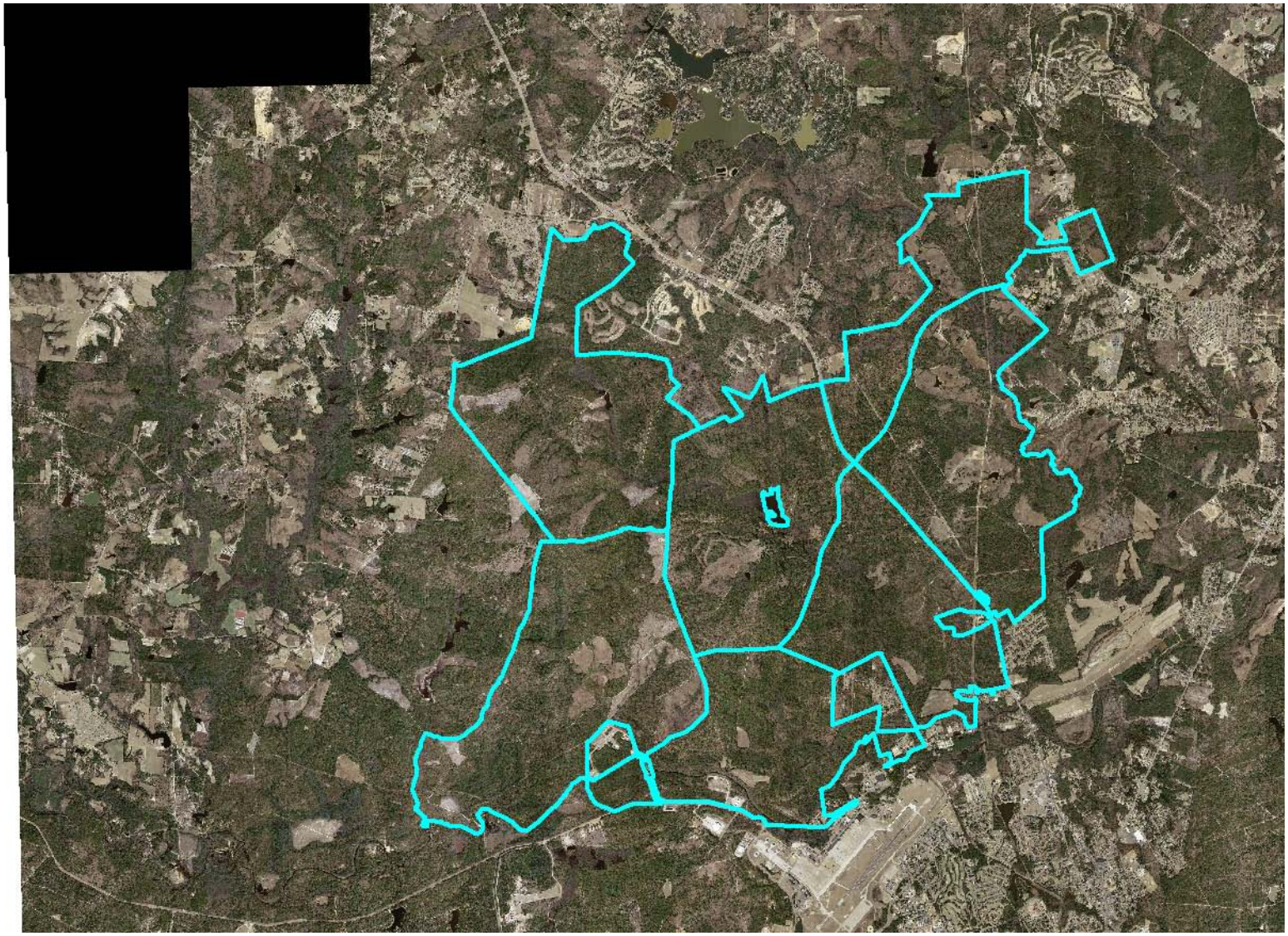
a. Sex of the deer
b. Age of the deer
c. Weight of the deer
d. Number of Points
e. Antler spread
f. Antler mass
g. None of the above



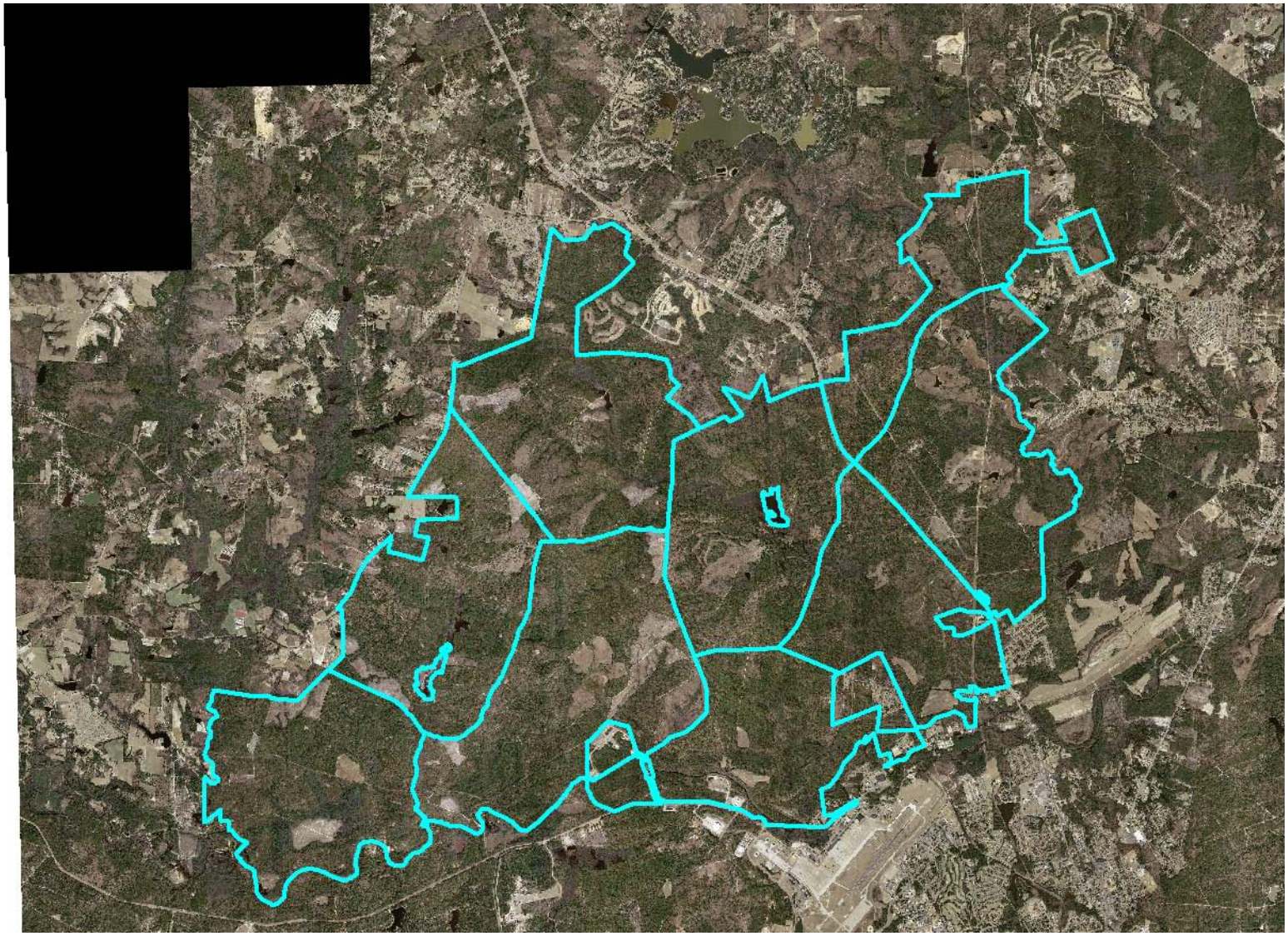
Which one of the above characteristics BEST defines the term “Quality Deer”?



2000 – 13,000 ac.



2001 – 22,000 ac.



Mandatory Sign-Out
Mandatory Check Station
Control Hunter Density
Control of Antlerless Harvest

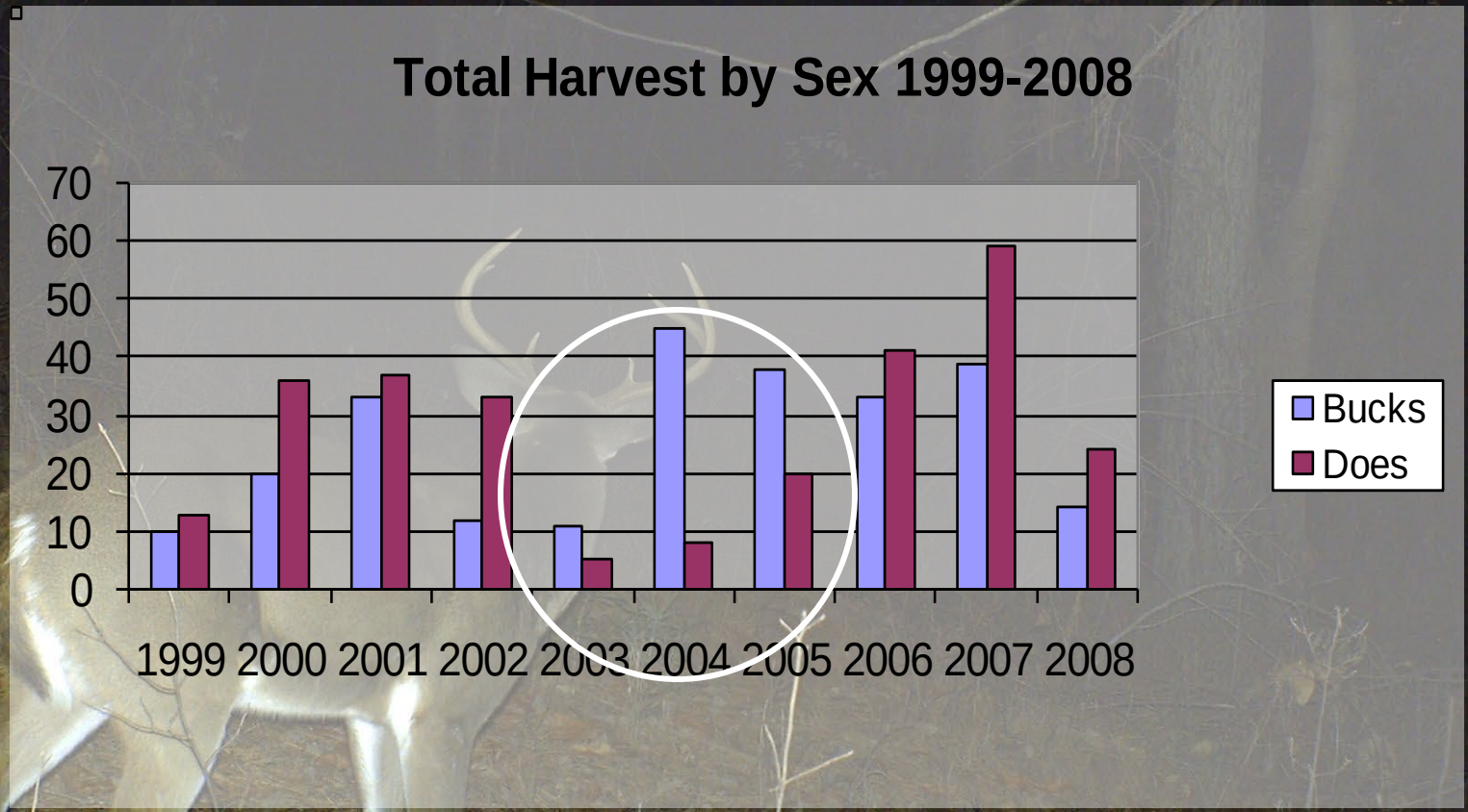
Harvest Data is Critical

Food Plot Program

Volunteers Play a Big Role

Fort Bragg
QDMA

Doe Harvest



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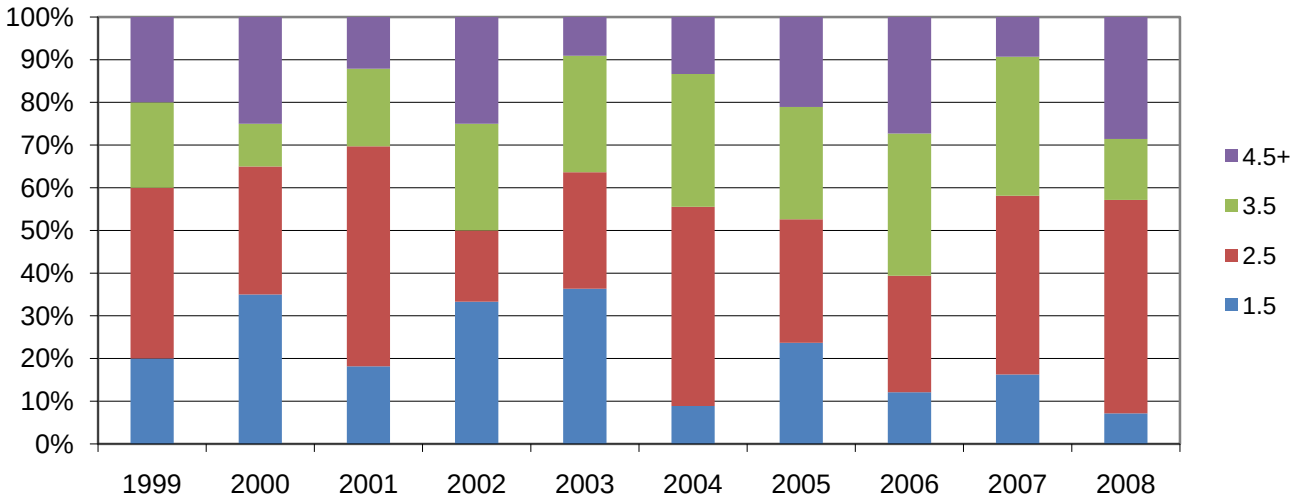
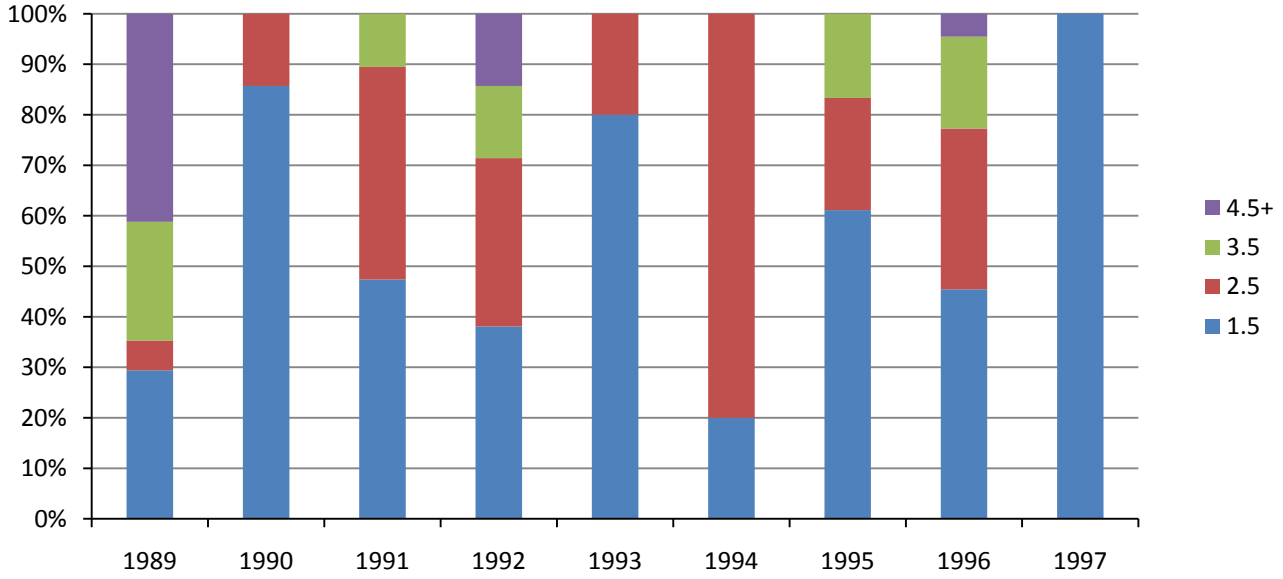
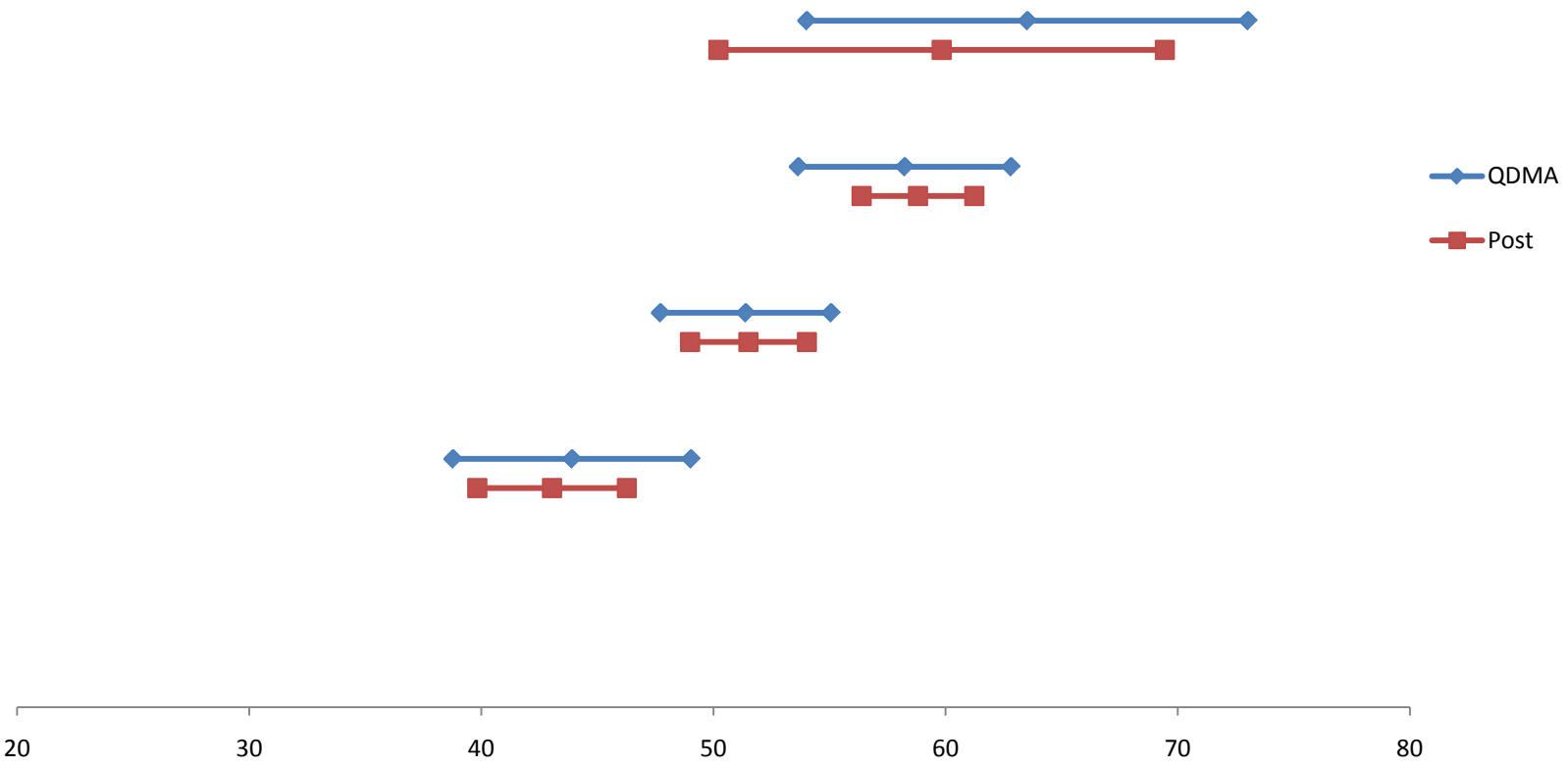
Antlered Buck Age Structure QDM (1999-2008)



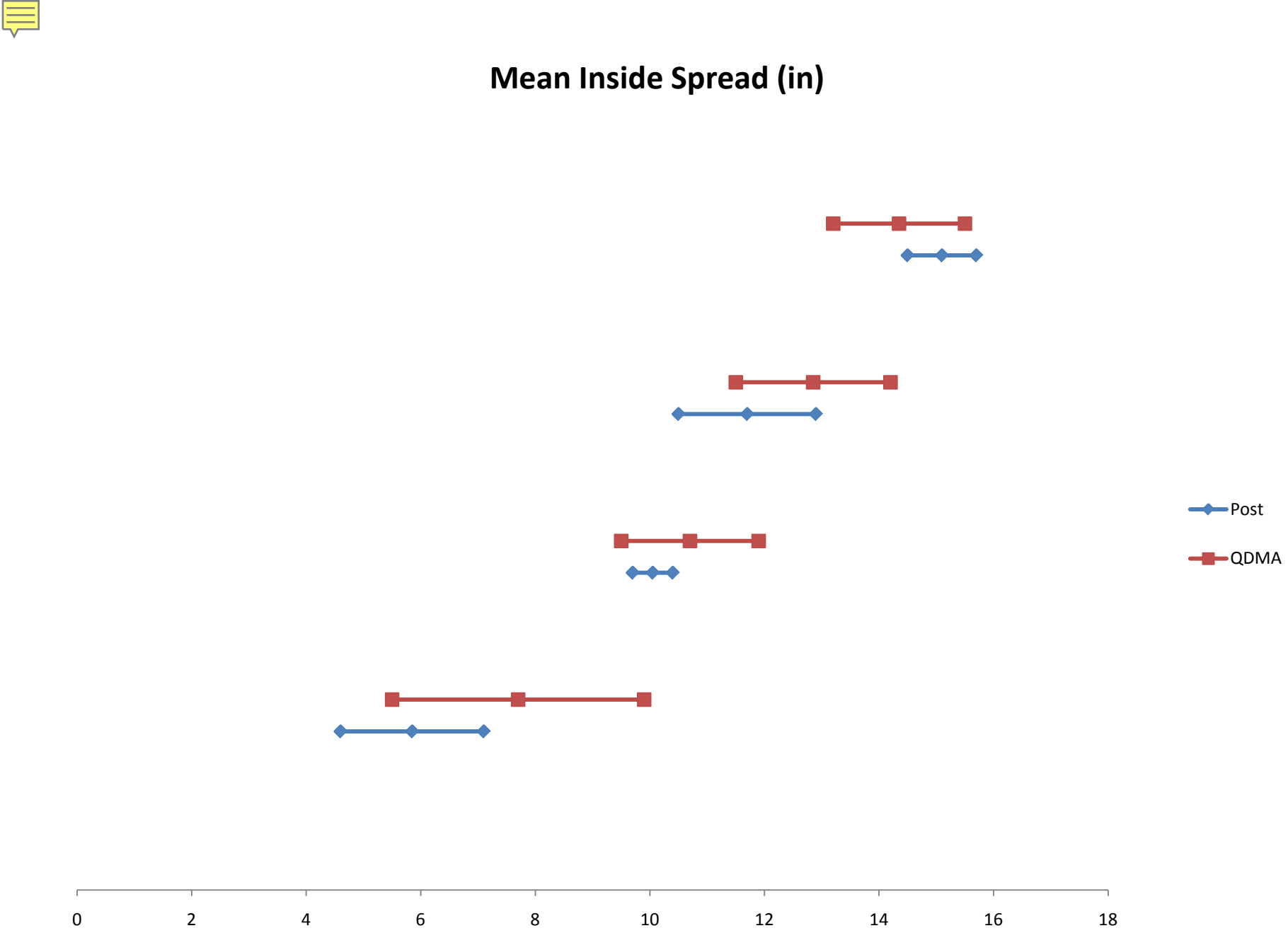
Antlered Buck Age Structure Pre-QDM (1989-1997)



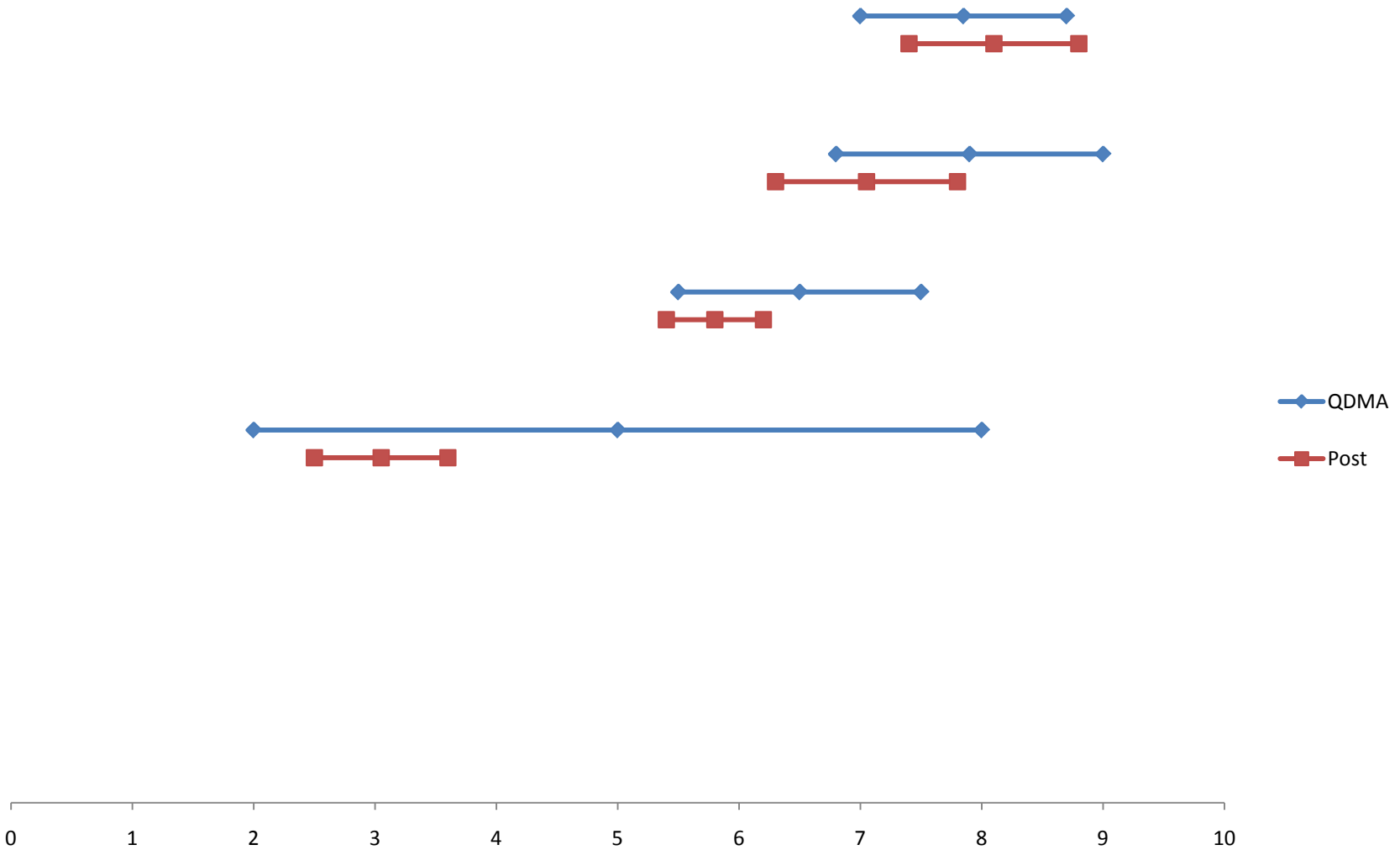
Mean Weights 1999-2008 (kg)



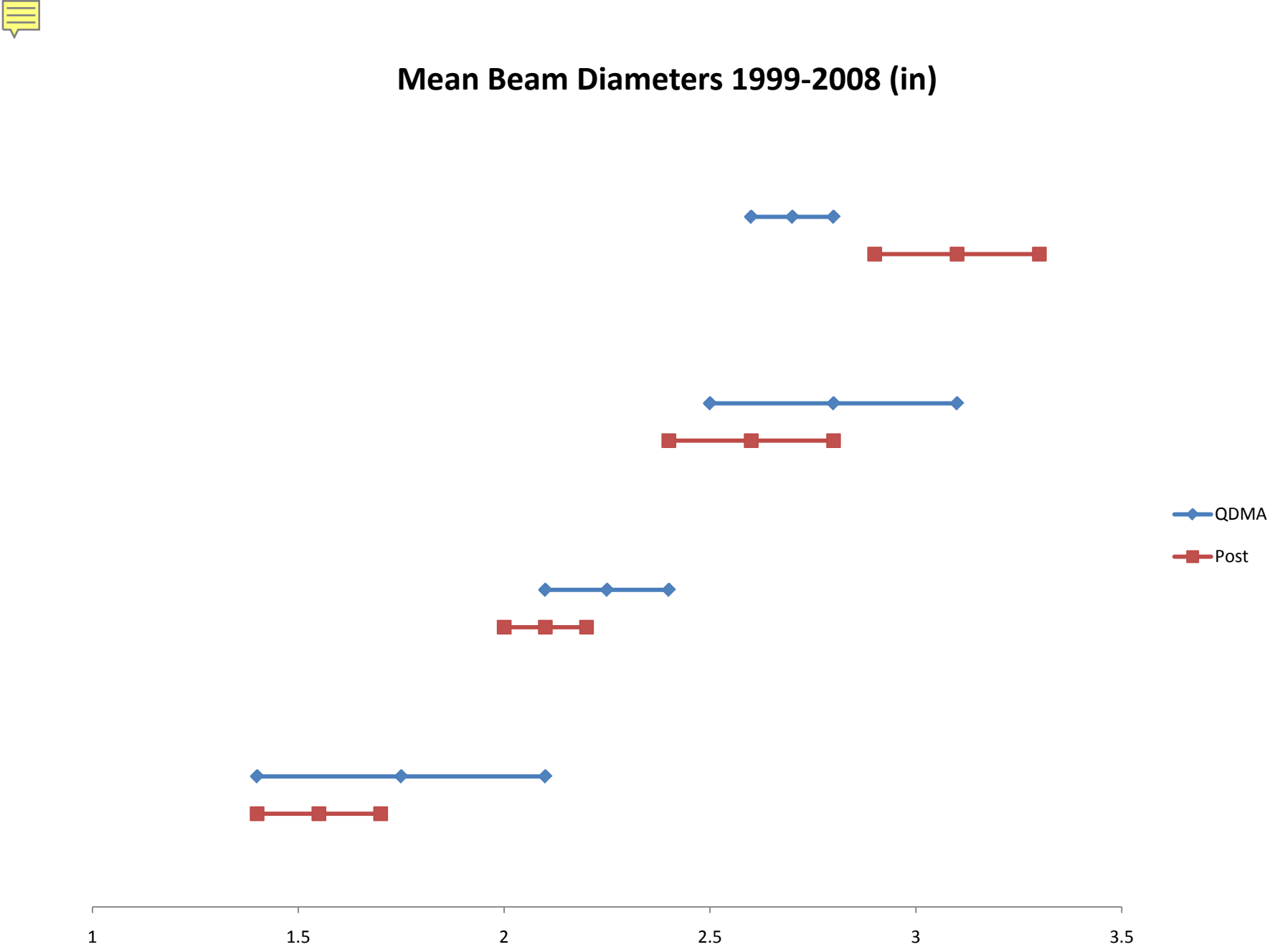
Mean Inside Spread (in)



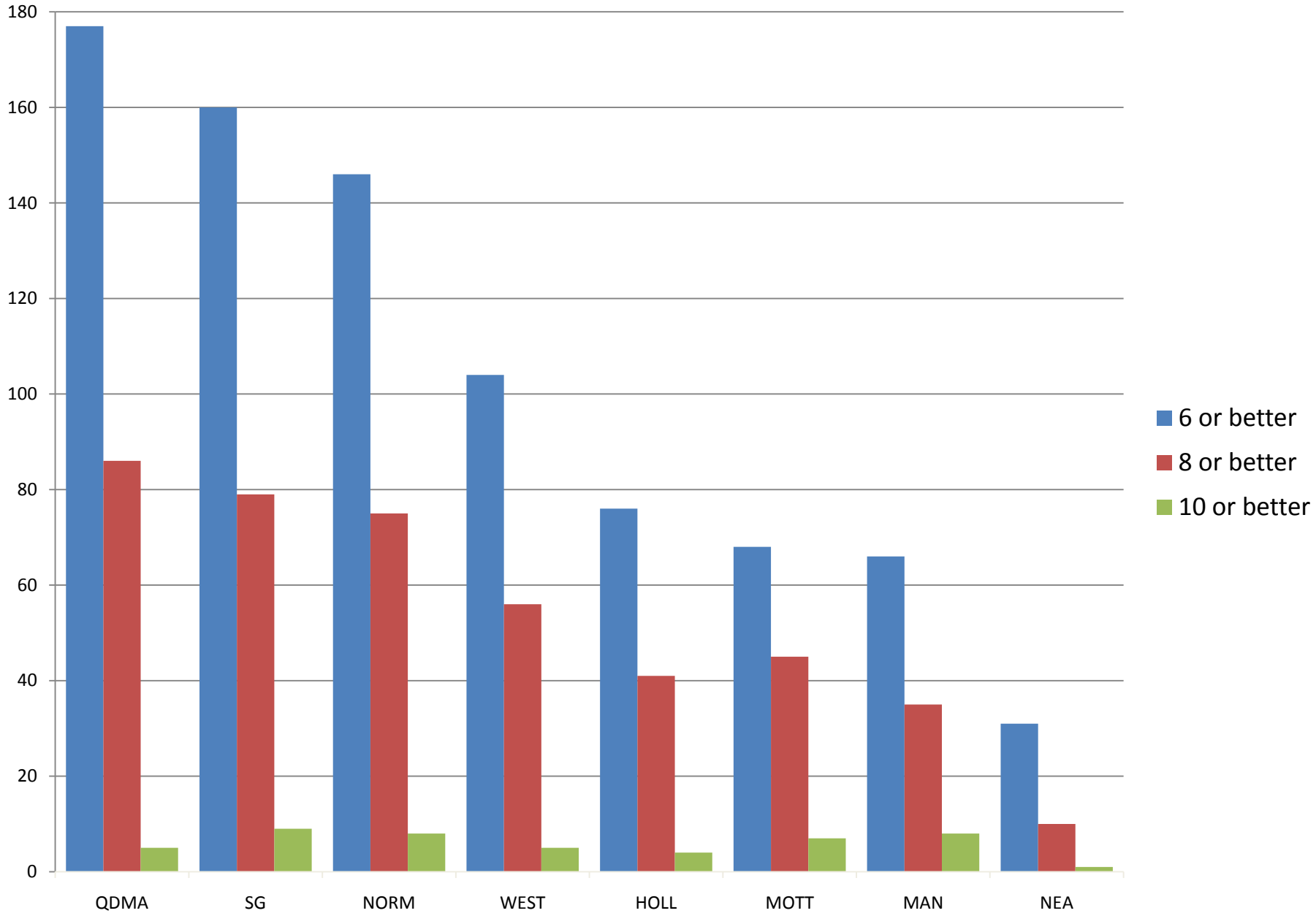
Mean Number of Points 1999-2008

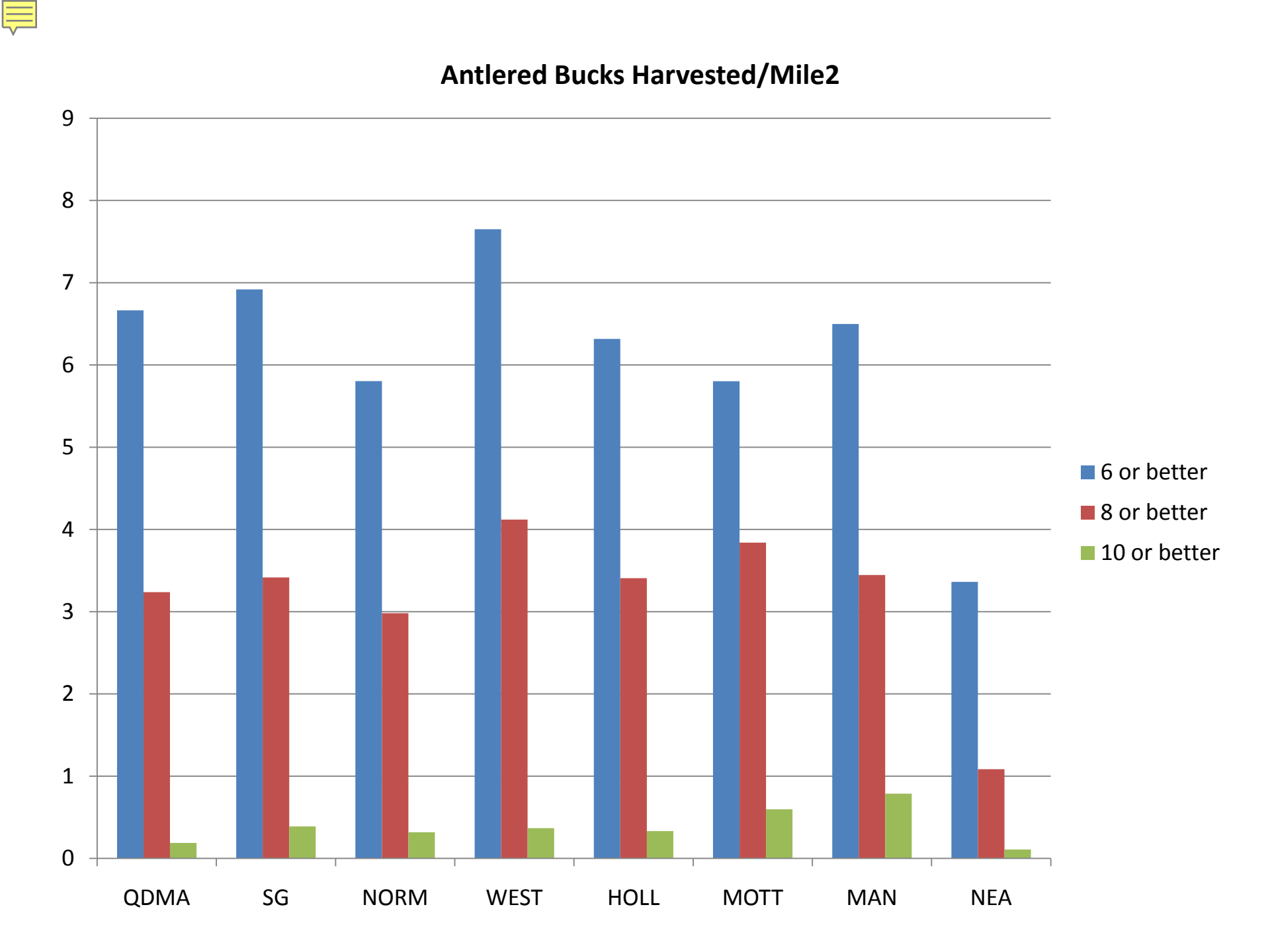


Mean Beam Diameters 1999-2008 (in)

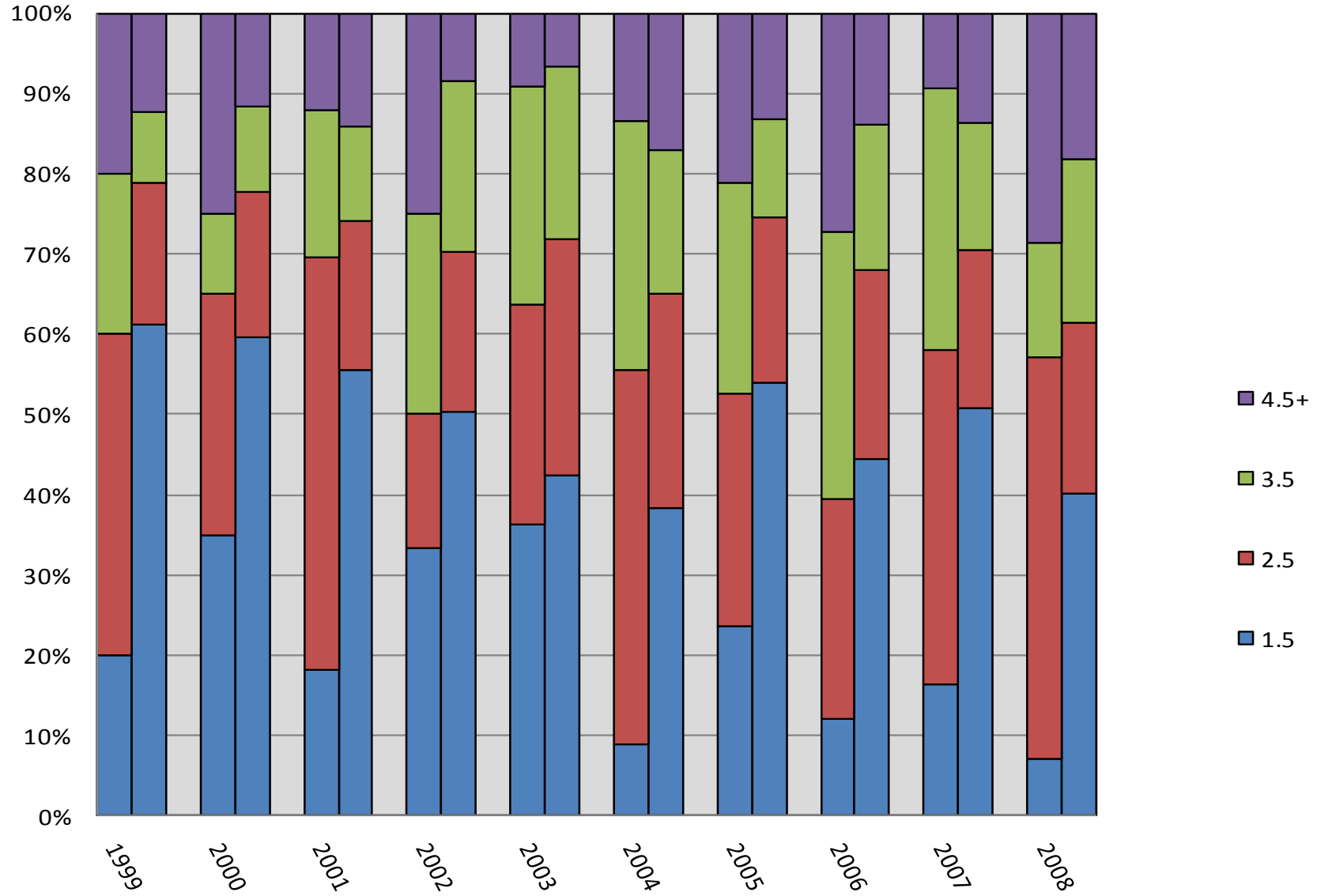


Antlered Bucks by Mgmt. Area 2001-2008




Antlered Bucks Harvested/Mile2
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
QDMA
SG
NORM
WEST
HOLL
MOTT
MAN
NEA
6 or better
8 or better
10 or better

QDM vs. Post Antlered Age Class Structure (1999-2008)



Nathan Putman 124 lbs. 7 pt. and 144 lbs. 12 Pt. NTA
8 31 Dec 04

Phillip Gibson 139 lbs 8 pt. and 121 lbs. 7 pt. NTA 6
21 Dec 04

Mike Pova 179 Lbs. 8 Pt, NTA 8 6 Nov 04

Bryan Malone 128 lbs 7 Pt. NTA 4 24 Nov 05

Mike Ray 142 lbs 9 Pt. NTA 2 25 Nov 05

Reinaldo Candelaria 150 lbs 11 Pt. NTA 7 26 Nov 05

Robert Brown 145 Lbs 7 Pt. NTA 7
NOV 4 2006

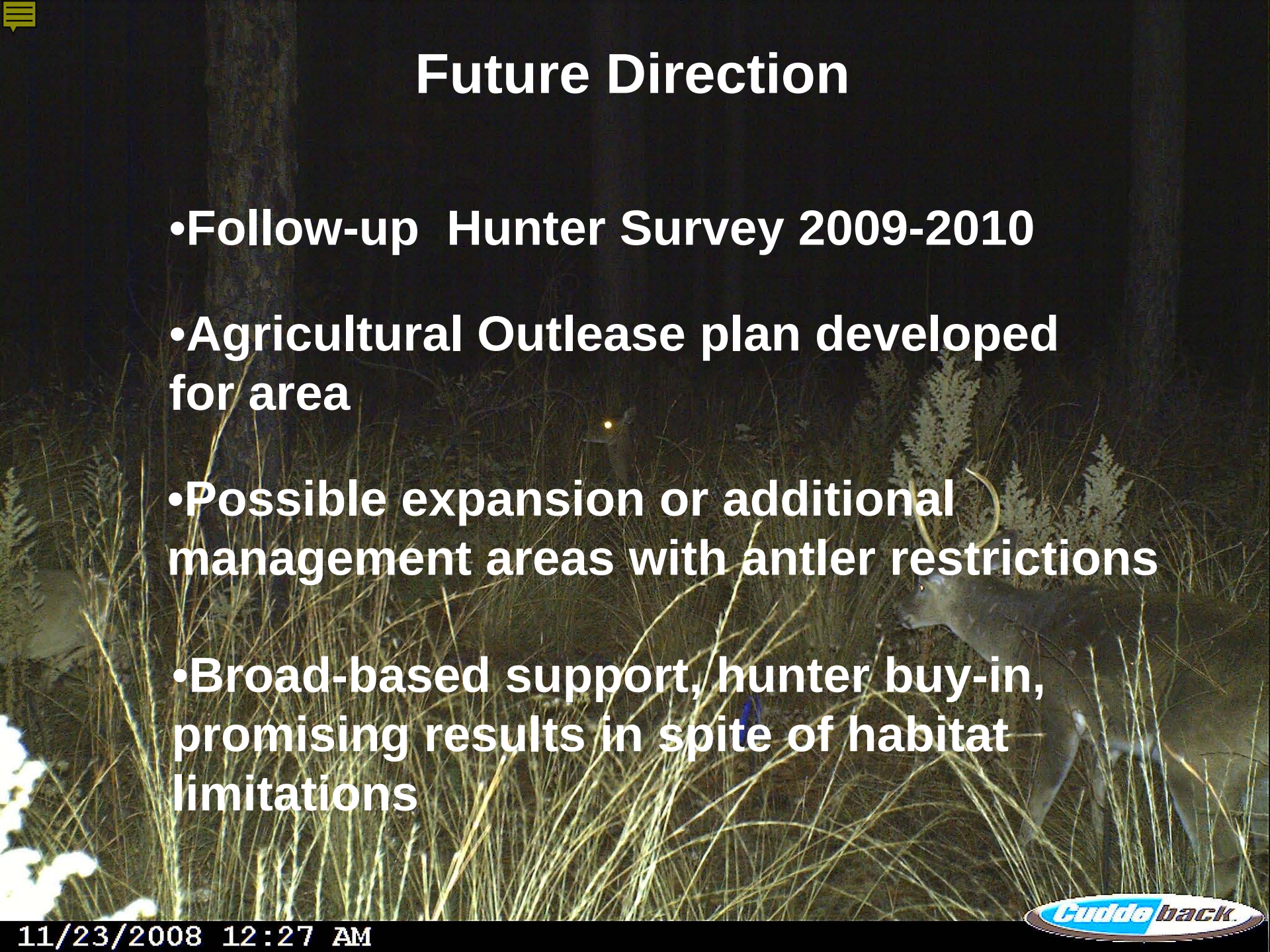
John Nunn 155 lbs 9 pt. NTA 7 9/29/04

DUDLEY WARNER 9 PT 140 LB NTA 2
Oct.12.2002

DAVID SMITH 13pt 158.8 lbs Area Y
22.4 inch spread
9 Nov 02

William Butler 164 lbs. 12 Pt. TT 13 Nov 04

15 5:24 PM

Future Direction

- Follow-up Hunter Survey 2009-2010
- Agricultural Outlease plan developed for area
- Possible expansion or additional management areas with antler restrictions
- Broad-based support, hunter buy-in, promising results in spite of habitat limitations